

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05307 012027Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8953
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: OPPONENTS DISCOVER IDEOLOGICAL CHINK IN THE ROLDOS-
HURTADO ARMOR

1. IN HIS JULY 27 COLUMN IN GUAYAQUIL'S EL TELEGRAFO, "EDARGO"
(EDUARDO AROSEMENA GOMEZ, EDITOR OF THE PAPER AND EX-PRESIDENT
OTTO AROSEMENA'S BROTHER) QUOTED FROM A POLICY PAPER PREPARED
BY POPULAR DEMOCRACY (DP), THE PARTY OF JAIME ROLDOS' RUNNING
MATE OSVALDO HURTADO, WHICH RAISES SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
POLITICAL-ECONOMIC ORIENTATION OF THE DP. THE PAPER, ENTITLED
"DECLARATION OF IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF POPULAR DEMOCRACY
/AND/ CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION", WAS PREPARED DURING THE
PARTY CONVENTION ON APRIL 8-9, 1978, TWO WEEKS AFTER THE
ROLDOS-HURTADO TICKET WAS FORMED. IT PRESENTS AN IDEALISTIC,
UTOPIAN MODEL FOR ECUADOR'S FUTURE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT COMBINES EXTREME SOCIALISM WITH SOME
ASPECTS OF CORPORATIVISM. THE DOCUMENT PROPOSES A SOCIETY
BASED ON "COMMUNITARIAN SOCIALISM" AND STRONGLY ATTACKS MOST
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PAGE 02 QUITO 05307 012027Z

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION, PRIVATE CONTROL OF
THE MEDIA, REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AND THE LIBERAL,
CAPITALIST MODEL IN GENERAL. IT DOES NOT EVEN ESCHEW TOTALLY
VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE POWER. VERY DOGMATIC AND
EVEN AUTHORITARIAN IN NATURE, THE DOCUMENT PRESENTS A
PANORAMA OF DP GOALS WHICH IS NOT COMMON KNOWLEDGE.

2. COMMENT: EDARGO'S COMMENTARY ON THIS DOCUMENT IS, TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THE FIRST PUBLICITY WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO IT. IT SHOULD RECEIVE MORE FROM THIS POINT ON, IN SPITE OF POPULAR DEMOCRAT ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COPIES IN CIRCULATION. THE IMPACT COULD, OF COURSE, BE SIGNIFICANT. OSVALDO HURTADO HAS MANAGED TO DATE TO DEFEND HIMSELF (AND FIND OTHER DEFENDERS) FROM THE WHISPER CAMPAIGN THAT HE IS A COMMUNIST. THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UTILIZED AS "PROOF" THAT THE DP PROGRAM IS AT LEAST RADICAL SOCIALIST IN NATURE. POLCOUNS QUERIED A POPULAR DEMOCRAT LEADER ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT AND THE CFP/DP PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT AND WAS TOLD THAT THE FORMER EXPRESSES IDEALISTIC PRINCIPLES AND HAS NO RELATION WHATSOEVER TO HOW THE DP WILL ACTUALLY FUNCTION IN GOVERNMENT. HE CHARACTERIZED THE DOCUMENT AS A STANDARD LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POINT OF VIEW NOT DISSIMILAR TO THE TENETS EXPRESSED BY CD PARTIES IN CHILE, ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, PERU AND GUATEMALA - ALTHOUGH MORE RADICAL THAN THE VENEZUELAN COPEI MODEL. THAT DEFENSE IS LIABLE TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THOSE INTENT UPON PAINTING THE ROLDOS-HURTADO SLATE AS REPRESENTING THE EXTREME LEFT.

3. EMBASSY WILL FURTHER ANALYZE THE DP DOCUMENT IN A SUBSEQUENT AIRGRAM.

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PAGE 03 QUITO 05307 012027Z

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